

9/11/2014

Federal Lands Transfer Interim Committee

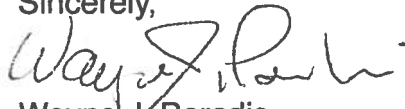
I moved to the Glenwood area outside Kamiah, Idaho 40 years ago after getting out of Vietnam and graduating from college under the VA bill. I moved here from Minnesota and was appalled to see the large scale timber harvest occurring on my National Forest. The huge clear cuts had no stream side protection. The slash was piled using a dozer while displacing precious top soil. Then the harvest units were burned too hot, further impacting the soil and residual vegetation. Roads were built on unstable slopes with inadequate drainage.

I began working with the U. S. Forest Service in 1975 and witnessed real progress in their land management practices. Landscape ecology was first talked about, then implemented. The importance of fire in shaping and maintaining the environment was integrated into management plans. Streams were protected and logging practices improved.

Now you propose State management of my National Forest, and I strongly oppose this fantasy. I have witnessed private, state, and federally managed lands. For this and future generations' benefit, Federal lands must be managed by the leading land management agency in the world, the U.S. Forest Service. These wilderness and multiple use lands support the clean water, air, and wildlife while providing goods and services to this community along with the rest of the U.S. citizens to which it belongs.

I believe your proposal to take over federal land is preposterous. The State does not have the resources, financial or otherwise, to properly manage the complex landscape that is our National Forest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Wayne J. Paradis", written in a cursive style.

Wayne J. Paradis  
124 Ponderosa Dr.  
Kamiah, ID